

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	409



wn Lexington

dress 17 Patriots Drive

Historic Name Emerson-Whitmore-Brown House

Rear Ell

ie: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

ite c. 1850

Source Edwin B. Worthen

Style Italianate

Architect

Exterior wall fabric clapboard, flushboard

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) remodeled
in Italianate style (c. 1877); front
portion demolished (1930)

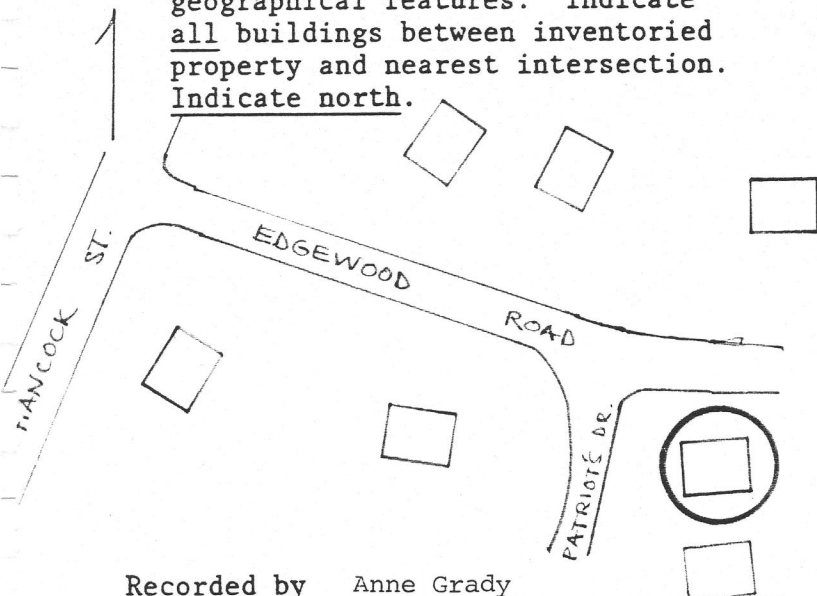
Moved from Hancock Street Date 1930

Approx. acreage 10325 ft.²

Setting Residential street; houses of
mixed date and size.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This house is the surviving rear ell of one of Lexington's most elaborate late nineteenth century houses. Paired round-headed windows, window trim and particularly the elaborately-carved foliate panels on the east end of the house give evidence of its past embellishment. There must have been some changes made to the structure when it was moved in 1930.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The house was built by Edward Emerson shortly after he purchased the property in 1848. The house, described as large, was sold in 1852 for \$12,000 to Charles Octavius Whitmore of Boston for use as a summer house. In 1877 Benjamin Franklin Brown, an insurance agent in Boston, purchased the house and "modernized" it (E.B. Worthen). In 1897 its valuation for taxes of \$12,500 was one of the highest in Lexington. The last owner of the house, Hallie Blake, demolished most of it in 1930 during the depression because he was unable to sell it. ^{This house,} the kitchen wing, evidently was salvaged and moved back from Hancock Street to its present site. The carriage house to the estate survives as a dwelling at 15 Patriots Drive; a building attached to the rear of the carriage/ ^{house was separated from it,} and survives remodeled into the house at 6 Wadman Circle.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 70. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.

Lexington Historical Society Photograph Collection.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Plan Book 180, Plan 1, 1909.

Worthen, Edwin B. Unidentified newspaper clipping in scrapbook in possession of Elizabeth Wright.

Personal communication from Reynolds Brown.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

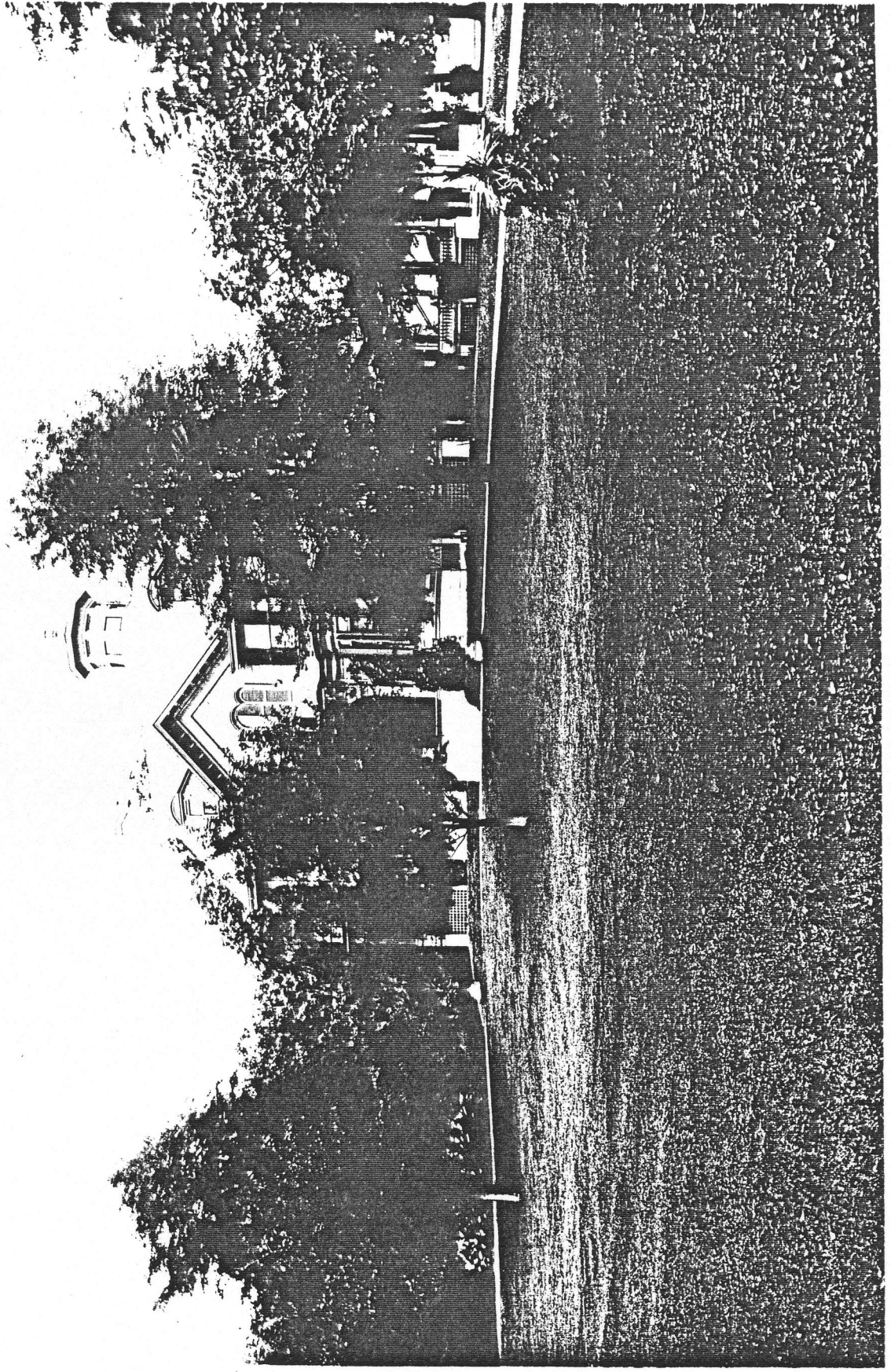
409

Property Name: 17 Patriots Drive

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom



The Benjamin F. Brown Estate. Photograph from the Lexington Historical Society archives, date unknown